

# DAILY BULLETIN

JUNE 2, 2006

## U.S. URGES RENEWED GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

Countries need individual plans of action, State's Silverberg says ..... 1

## UNITED STATES TO SEEK U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON BURMA

Extended detention of Aung San Suu Kyi unjustified, State Department says ..... 3

## UNITED STATES WITHHOLDS FROM SERBIA-MONTENEGRO \$7 MILLION IN AID

State Department cites lack of cooperation with war crimes tribunal as reason..... 3

## UNITED STATES SEEKS TO EXPAND TRADE PARTNERSHIP WITH BRAZIL

Commerce Secretary Gutierrez visiting Brazil June 5 through June 8..... 4

## U.S., INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS STUDY DISEASE IN WILD BIRDS

Collaborative projects beginning in China, Mexico... 5

## U.S. URGES RENEWED GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

Countries need individual plans of action, State's Silverberg says

By Judy Aita  
Washington File UN Correspondent

United Nations -- The focus of the U.N. General Assembly's high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS must not be on empty declarations but actions that will help save lives, prevent new infections and work toward the day when there will be an AIDS-free generation, U.S. officials say.

Nations must leave U.N. headquarters "with renewed commitment to effective action" at the end of the three-day session, said U.S. Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs Kristen Silverberg.

"What the U.N. says it's going to do is less critical than what member states do. What we want to see is some commitment from member states -- not only the U.S. but across the board," Silverberg said at a press briefing May 31.

"We need commitments that are achievable and member states need to have their own individual plans about how they are going to reach them," the assistant secretary said.

"That is what we have in the United States . . . and this is the kind of plan we want to see from member states," she said.

Dr. Mark Dybul, acting U.S. global AIDS coordinator, called the May 31 to June 2 U.N. meeting “an important event.” To highlight the commitment of the Bush administration, first lady Laura Bush is heading a large U.S. delegation that includes officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health as well as members of Congress and business leaders.

The U.S. global AIDS coordinator emphasized the importance of focusing on “what we need to get . . . as close as possible to universal access to treatment, care, and having AIDS-free generation.”

Dybul directs President Bush’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, also known as PEPFAR. The five-year, \$15-billion initiative supports the prevention, treatment and care for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. U.S. funding for HIV/AIDS programs has grown from \$840 million in 2001 to \$3.2 billion in 2006.

The joint U.N. Program for AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that \$22 billion a year will be needed by 2008 for AIDS programs with half going for prevention, one-fourth for care and treatment of those infected and the remaining for the care of orphans and children at risk. The increased financing and services coupled with sustained political leadership can achieve the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010, according to the United Nations.

“Unfortunately, the American people have been contributing approximately half of all contributions worldwide,” Dybul said. “We can’t sustain it. We need to work on getting greater contributions because it is a global epidemic that requires a global response.”

The United States is “not in the position to tell governments or the rest of the world what they should be committing,” Dybul continued. “Our view is that everyone should look to see what they can and should be committing as a people and government.”

UNAIDS reports signs that the epidemic is slowing in a few countries, but most countries have fallen short of the goals they set at the 2001 Special Session on AIDS. More than 20 million people have become infected with the HIV virus since that meeting.

#### NATIONAL STRATEGIES CRUCIAL

U.S. officials say that treatment now is receiving the attention it requires. In 2001, only 50,000 people were

receiving anti-retroviral therapy; by 2005, the United States was supporting national treatment programs in sub-Saharan Africa that reached 400,000 people.

“The American people are committed to stand with the people in these countries to support national strategies,” Dybul said. “We need to concentrate on the big-picture issue of what needs to be done” to build on the progress of the past five years.

The United States does not believe in “large-scale international targets,” Dybul said. “Countries need to be looking at their plans, their opportunities, and what they can do.”

“Countries begin at different capacities, different levels, and are at different stages,” he said. “It is impossible to ask countries that have much different capacities to achieve a certain level of access to treatment in the same four-year period.”

Commenting on the final declaration scheduled to be adopted June 2, Dybul said “everyone recognizes the importance of overcoming stigma and discrimination against women and young girls, [and] targeting men so they don’t behave badly. All of these are critical components of an effective response.”

The United States would “welcome the mention of vulnerable groups, generally and specifically,” Silverberg said, referring to debates over whether prostitutes, drug users and homosexuals should be mentioned in the final declaration.

The United States also has “absolutely no objection” to the mention of condoms as part of the so-called ABC approach (abstinence, be faithful, correct and consistent use of condoms) in addressing HIV prevention, Dybul said. All the data from sub-Saharan African programs have shown that the ABC approach has been effective in stemming the rate of infection.

For information on U.S. policies and programs see HIV/AIDS:  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html)

## UNITED STATES TO SEEK U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON BURMA

Extended detention of Aung San Suu Kyi unjustified, State Department says

By Cassie Duong  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States intends to pursue a U.N. Security Council resolution that will underscore the international community's concerns about the situation in Burma, including the "unjustifiable detention of a great champion of democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi," according to a statement released by the State Department May 31.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), has been under house arrest for the past three years on orders of Burma's military regime, the State Peace and Development Council.

The junta's extension of Suu Kyi's detention May 27 is a demonstration of its unwillingness to participate in a "credible and inclusive political process," the statement says.

NLD, Burma's leading democratic opposition party, won a landslide victory in national elections in 1990 -- capturing more than 81 percent of the vote and 392 out of 485 parliamentary seats -- but the military regime prevented it from taking leadership of the country.

The statement warns that the regime's "repression of political rights now poses a threat to the stability, peace and security of the region" due to the deterioration of the economic, political and public health situation in Burma.

For more information on U.S. policies, see U.S. Support for Democracy in Burma:  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east\\_asia\\_pacific/burma.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/burma.html)

## UNITED STATES WITHHOLDS FROM SERBIA-MONTENEGRO \$7 MILLION IN AID

State Department cites lack of cooperation with war crimes tribunal as reason

By Jeffrey Thomas  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has decided to withhold from Serbia-Montenegro \$7 million in assistance for fiscal year 2006 because of Belgrade's continuing lack of cooperation with the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The United States long has emphasized the importance of apprehending wartime leaders who have been implicated in war crimes, and U.S. law prohibits assistance to the central government of Serbia-Montenegro unless the secretary of state certifies that it has taken action to cooperate with the war crimes tribunal. U.S. assistance first was withheld in 2004 for the same reason.

"Humanitarian aid for the Serbian people and assistance for strengthening democracy will continue to be available to those who are working to overcome the past and are looking to the future," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack in a May 31 statement announcing Rice's decision.

Noting that Rice certified Serbia-Montenegro as cooperating with the war crimes tribunal in June 2005, McCormack said, "there has been little notable cooperation with the Tribunal since that time."

"The United States wishes to strengthen relations with Serbia and help it become a fully successful, secure, and democratic nation that is integrated into Euro-Atlantic structures," McCormack said. "However, Serbia must meet its international obligations."

While hosting Bosnian political leaders November 22, 2005, at the State Department, Rice reiterated that former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic and his former military commander, Ratko Mladic, must face justice at the war crimes tribunal -- the ICTY -- in The Hague, Netherlands.

"To enjoy the full blessings of integration, Bosnia and Herzegovina must fully confront the demons of its past," she said, "in particular, the urgent and long-overdue need

to bring to justice war criminals, like Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic.” Mladic and Karadzic are alleged to have led the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica, Bosnia, in which ethnic Serb forces massacred as many as 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

“America’s position is clear and uncompromising,” Rice said. “Every Balkan country must arrest its indicted war criminals, or it will have no future in NATO.”

Because of the close relationship between the Bosnian-Serb authorities in Banja Luka and the Serb government in Belgrade, the United States has maintained that both entities bear a special responsibility to find these criminals and bring them to justice.

Under Secretary of State R. Nicholas Burns also has said the U.S. position on war criminals “is uncompromising.”

“We will not support Bosnia-Herzegovina or Serbia Montenegro for membership in NATO’s Partnership for Peace until this problem is resolved,” Burns said in November 2005 at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

McCormack concluded his May 31 statement by calling on authorities in Belgrade “to cooperate fully with the Tribunal, to include the arrest and transfer of fugitive indictees, particularly Ratko Mladic, to face justice in The Hague.”

“As Serbia Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica said, ‘by hiding, Ratko Mladic is inflicting great harm to [Serbian] state and national interests,’” McCormack observed.

The war in Bosnia began in 1992 after Bosnia declared independence from Serb-led Yugoslavia. The ethnic Muslim-dominated Bosniak government in Sarajevo originally fought to preserve the country’s distinctive multiethnic way of life, while many Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats sought to maintain ties with neighboring Yugoslavia and Croatia. Many ethnic Serbs and Croats also questioned whether Muslims would guarantee their rights, and some feared an independent Bosniak government would lead to a rise in Islamic fundamentalism.

After some 3.5 years of war and 250,000 dead, U.S. and NATO air forces intervened, destroying Serb command posts, which allowed Croat and Bosniak ground forces to make important territorial gains. The Dayton Peace Accords were then reached on November 21, 1995.

In December 2005, Croatian and Spanish authorities announced the arrest of General Ante Gotovina, who was indicted in 2001 by the ICTY for alleged war crimes against Serbs in Croatia.

“With the success of its considerable efforts to locate and bring Gotovina to justice, Croatia significantly strengthens its candidacy for its eventual full Euro-Atlantic integration,” Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in a prepared statement at the time, going on to urge the authorities in Belgrade and Banja Luka to follow suit.

McCormack said Rice is prepared to review her decision to withhold assistance “if future actions by the Government of Serbia and Montenegro demonstrate its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.”

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Southeast Europe.:

[http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe\\_eurasia/balkans.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe_eurasia/balkans.html)

---

#### UNITED STATES SEEKS TO EXPAND TRADE PARTNERSHIP WITH BRAZIL

---

Commerce Secretary Gutierrez visiting Brazil June 5 through June 8

By Eric Green  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez is making a June 5-8 trip to Brazil with the goal of expanding U.S. trade with the South American nation.

Briefing reporters June 1, Gutierrez said he seeks to follow up on a U.S.-Brazil “commercial dialogue” on economic cooperation that President Bush established with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva when the two met in Brazil in November 2005. The Commerce Department said Gutierrez will begin his trip in Rio de Janeiro, followed by stops in Brasilia and São Paulo.

The purpose of the commercial dialogue is to address the issues “that are getting in the way” of the U.S.-Brazilian economic relationship, Gutierrez said.

The United States and Brazil are already important trade partners, the secretary said, but “we believe there’s more

we can be doing” to create jobs and promote in the two countries.

To illustrate, Gutierrez said the value of two-way per capita trade between the United States and Brazil in 2004 was one-third below that of U.S. per capita trade with Chile in the same year, and about one-fourth below that with Mexico.

Gutierrez said the U.S.-Brazilian commercial dialogue features several key issues, including business facilitation and promotion to improve both nations’ ability to move goods more efficiently across international borders.

The dialogue also includes export and investment promotion. “We believe we can do more to promote exports from the United States to Brazil,” and vice-versa, Gutierrez said.

A third area, he said, involves protecting intellectual property rights. The United States plans to provide technical cooperation between the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and its Brazilian counterpart “on best practices, enforcement, and sharing information” towards the shared goal of creating what Gutierrez termed an “intellectual property violations-free-environment.”

#### STATUS OF THE FTAA

Regarding the status of the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), Gutierrez said the failure to reach agreement on enacting the hemisphere-wide pact is a “missed opportunity” for the region. Gutierrez cited the successes of the North American Free Trade Agreement, involving the United States, Mexico, and Canada, and a U.S.-bilateral trade pact with Chile as examples of how the FTAA could improve the lives of the hemisphere’s 800 million people.

In the absence of an FTAA, Gutierrez said the United States would continue to pursue bilateral free-trade pacts with “those partners who want to build a stronger economy.”

Gutierrez said the United States recently signed a free-trade pact with Peru and is discussing similar measures with Ecuador and Colombia. President Bush met with Panamanian leaders in 2005 to discuss the possibility of a U.S.-Panama free-trade agreement.

Gutierrez said that “we would hope that one day we will have” an FTAA. Such an agreement, he said, would

be good for creating jobs, prosperity, and providing for “social justice” in the hemisphere.

#### U.S., INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS STUDY DISEASE IN WILD BIRDS

Collaborative projects beginning in China, Mexico

By Charlene Porter  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – U.S. and Chinese wildlife scientists are headed to remote Qinghai Lake in western China in early June to conduct a joint project on the presence of a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus in barheaded geese.

An outbreak of the deadly H5N1 virus in these migratory birds on that lake in 2005 served as one of the first clues underlying the theory that the seasonal movements of birds might carry the pathogen on intercontinental journeys.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture joins the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Zoology in the project, according to Dr. Tom DeLiberto, APHIS’ national wildlife disease coordinator, who is overseeing the research.

A wildlife veterinarian, DeLiberto told the Washington File that the researchers will be working to answer a number of questions surrounding the discovery of more than 500 dead wild birds at Qinghai Lake in 2005.

“[Is] that virus endemic in that ecosystem?” he said. “If so, where is it reservoir, what species is it in, and is it still an active virus in that ecosystem?”

Qinghai Lake is an important stopping point for migratory birds on one of their Asia-Europe routes. When H5N1 was discovered in wildlife there, some experts theorized that the birds had carried the disease up from the south where they originally were infected.

Months after discovery of that die-off, H5N1 began moving out of Asia in a big way, first appearing in Central Asia, then Russia, then Eastern and Western Europe, the



Mideast and Africa. Only about 10 countries reported observations of H5N1 either in poultry or wild birds in mid-2005; now that number is more than 50.

DeLiberto said the American-Chinese collaboration should help wildlife scientists better understand what happens to the virus in a given environment, and whether the virus sustains itself in those environments for long periods.

Also in Asia, APHIS has worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development to help the Cambodian government establish a surveillance program for avian influenza in wild birds. Similar programs are anticipated in other nations of the region.

#### WILD BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA

In North America, DeLiberto said his agency is working with counterparts in Mexico's government to improve surveillance of migratory birds.

The H5N1 virus has not appeared in the Western Hemisphere since the bird pandemic began in Asia in late 2003, but some observers expect it to appear there at any time, given the rapid movement of the pathogen across Eurasia in 2006.

Mexico's wild-bird surveillance currently is not as comprehensive as that conducted by the United States and Canada, DeLiberto said, so the effort now being planned will scale up the Mexican program to help ensure the first appearance of H5N1 in North America will be detected rapidly.

"We will be able to get a continentwide view," the U.S. wildlife veterinarian said. "If this virus enters North America in wild birds, we'll be able to have a perspective on the entire continent."

Bird migratory flyways on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts are being watched as possible routes for the introduction of H5N1 into North America.

Even though wild birds have received significant attention as the transcontinental transporters of highly pathogenic avian influenza, DeLiberto said, poor biosecurity measures are also a highly likely means by which the virus can be carried from one area to the next.

The H5N1 virus can be carried from one place to another via the transport of domestic birds, or it might survive

in mud that is carried from one farm to the next on a vehicle fender or a farmer's shoe. The virus also can be carried on feathers plucked from infected birds, or on empty cages in which the animals once were kept.

DeLiberto said genuine vigilance is needed to prevent transmission of the virus through poor biosecurity.

The veterinarian represented the United States at a May 30-31 international scientific meeting on avian influenza and wild birds sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health.

For ongoing coverage of the disease and efforts to combat it, see Bird Flu (Avian Influenza):  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/bird\\_flu.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/bird_flu.html)

**Plases Note:** Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: <http://geneva.usmission.gov/>

Select "Washington File" from the top menu bar.